

1    **WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

2        1. A method of providing images to a remote site, the method comprising:  
3            sensing an image of a scene;  
4            establishing a connection with a remote site;  
5            transmitting the sensed image to the remote site;  
6            receiving a selection of a subimage of the sensed image from the remote site;  
7            generating the subimage from the sensed image; and  
8            transmitting the subimage to the remote site.

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10        2. The method of claim 1, comprising:  
11            determining whether the remote site is authorized to receive images.

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13        3. The method of claim 1, comprising:  
14            determining at least one of a priority level and an exclusivity level of the remote  
15            site.

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17        4. The method of claim 1, comprising:  
18            determining whether a channel is available for transmitting the subimage to the  
19            remote site.

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21        5. The method of claim 4, comprising:  
22            transmitting a message to the remote site asking whether the remote site is to  
23            receive subimages transmitted on a channel assigned to another remote site.

24  
25        6. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of generating the subimage  
26            comprises:  
27            generating a series of frames of the subimage.

28  
29        7. The method of claim 6, wherein the step of transmitting the subimage  
30            comprises:  
31            transmitting the series of frames of the subimage to the remote site.

1           8. The method of claim 7, wherein the step of transmitting the subimage  
2           comprises:

3           transmitting subimage data on one of a plurality of channels.

4  
5           9. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of generating the subimage  
6           comprises:

7           selecting subimage data from the sensed image; and  
8           formatting the subimage data.

9  
10          10. A method of providing images to a plurality of remote sites, the method  
11          comprising:

12           sensing an image of a scene;  
13           establishing connections with the remote sites;  
14           transmitting the sensed image to the remote sites;  
15           receiving a selection of a subimage from each of the remote sites;  
16           assigning each of the remote sites to a channel;  
17           generating the subimage selected at each remote site; and  
18           transmitting the subimages to their respective remote sites.

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20          11. The method of claim 10, comprising:  
21           determining whether channels are available to transmit the subimages to the  
22          remote sites.

23  
24          12. The method of claim 10, wherein the step of transmitting the subimages  
25          comprises transmitting a series of frames of the subimages.

26  
27          13. A method of displaying images at a remote site, the method comprising:  
28           establishing a connection with an image access system;  
29           receiving a sensed image of a scene to be observed;  
30           displaying the sensed image;  
31           selecting a subimage of the sensed image;  
32           transmitting the selection of the subimage to the image access system;

1 receiving the subimage from the image access system; and  
2 displaying the subimage.

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4 14. The method of claim 11, wherein the step of selecting a subimage comprises:  
5 panning through the sensed image; and  
6 indicating a portion of the sensed image to be displayed.

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8 15. An image access system comprising:  
9 an image sensor for sensing an image; and  
10 an image processing system operably coupled to the image sensor, wherein the  
11 image processing system receives image data from the image sensor, generates  
12 subimages of the sensed image, and transmits subimages to remote sites upon request by  
13 the remote sites.

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15 16. The image access system of claim 15, wherein the image processing system  
16 comprises:  
17 a sensor control operably coupled to the image sensor, wherein the sensor control  
18 receives the image data from the image sensor.

19

20 17. The image access system of claim 16, wherein the image processing system  
21 comprises:  
22 an access control operably coupled to the sensor control and in communication  
23 with the remote sites, wherein the access control controls access of the remote sites to the  
24 image access system, the generation of subimages, and the transmission of subimages to  
25 the remote sites.

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27 18. The image access system of claim 17, wherein the image processing system  
28 comprises:  
29 a processor operably coupled to the access control to receive instructions from  
30 the access control, wherein the processor receives image data from the sensor control and  
31 formats image data for transmission to the remote sites.

1           19. The image access system of claim 18, wherein the image processing system  
2 comprises:

3           a frame buffer operably coupled to the sensor control and to the processor,  
4 wherein the frame buffer receives image data from the sensor and provides image data to  
5 the processor.

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7           20. The image access system of claim 15, wherein the image sensor includes a  
8           sensor array.

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